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"'ROK'-U.S. ECONOMIC ACCORD," EX'GE RATE RAISE LAY BARE TRUE COLORS OF U.S. IMPERIALISM!

The U. S. imperialists forced the South Korean Chang Myun regime to raise the exchange rate to 1,300 huan to one dollar on Feb. 1 and to conclude the "Economic and Technical Agreement" with the U. S. on Feb. 8. These actions by the U. S. imperialists exposed the gangster-like nature of the Wall Street monopolies. All the Korean people are launching powerful movements against policies of treachery and aggression and of intensifying exploitation by U. S. imperialism and its puppets.

Exchange Rate Raised To 1,300 Huan To $ 1

The Chang Myun regime decided at an extraordinary "Meeting of the Cabinet," on Feb. 1 to raise the exchange rate to 1,300 to one dollar, effective from the following day, according to Radio Seoul. The exchange rate had been set at 1,000 huan to one dollar since Jan. 1 of this year. Before the end of last year, it was set at 650 huan.

Referring to the raising of the exchange rate, Kim Yung Sun, "Secretary of Finance" of the Chang Myun regime, said informally on Feb. 1 that the Chang Myun regime would control consumption and grant export subsidies. He admitted that there was a danger of the raised exchange rate causing higher prices and confusing the price system.

U. S. Forces The Chang Regime To Hike Railway, Electricity Rates

The U. S. ordered the Chang Myun regime on Feb. 2 to raise railway and electricity rates, according to reports from Seoul. In an "extraordinary statement" issued the same day in connection with the raising of the exchange rate, U. S. Ambassador to Seoul Walter P. McConaughy stressed that the U. S. would grant a credit to South Korea if the Chang Myun regime hiked railway and electricity rates in keeping with the raising of the exchange rate.

According to the U. S. direction, the Chang Myun regime decided to raise railway fares drastically from April 1. According to this decision, the first, second and third class railway fares are to be raised by 20 per cent, 50 per cent and 20 per cent respectively and freight charges by 20 per cent.

Exchange Rate Raise Deals Fatal Blow To Industries

Almost all the South Korean industries have been hit seriously by the raising of the exchange rate ordered by the U. S. imperialists.

The hardest-hit are the cotton spinning and weaving industries and the milling industry, Tongyang Tongshin reported on Feb. 4 from Seoul. Excepting comparatively large five cotton spinning and weaving mills and two flour mills, the greater part of mills are likely to go bankrupt before the end of this year.

This is due to a 40 to 50 per cent raise in the price of American cotton and wheat and in production cost as a result of the raising of the exchange rate.

The effect of the upward revision of the exchange rate is expanding to various other industries importing raw materials from the U.S., such as soap and rubber goods manufacturing industries, the report said.

The effect has begun to be felt in marine transportation, too. Twenty passenger boats at various ports including Pusan in South Kyungsang Province have been compelled to cancel departures due to a rapid rise in the prices of oils and oil shortage.

Bus Fares Double In Seoul

Bus fares were boosted all at once in Seoul, according to reports from Seoul. Following a general trend toward higher prices in South Korea since the revision of the exchange rate, the price of gasoline per drum has risen to approximately 24,000 huan. As a result, bus fares were doubled on Feb. 15 to 60 huan per ticket.

Fertilizer Price Rose 5 Per Cent In 2 Days In Seoul

The price of fertilizer rose by 5 per cent in two days in early February in Seoul, according to a Donghua Tongshin report from Seoul. Prices had been following a sharp upward curve since the revision of the exchange rate. A Tongyang Tongshin report said that South Korean peasants will suffer a loss to the tune of 7,000 to 8,000 million huan as a result of the revision of the exchange rate.

"'ROK'-U. S. Economic And Technical Agreement" Concluded Under The Pressure Of U. S. Imperialism

The United States forced the Chang Myun regime to conclude an "economic and technical agreement" with the United States. The agreement was signed on Feb. 8 in Seoul closely on the heels of the action to raise the exchange rate of the huan.

Since the South Korean puppet regime was illegally formed in 1948, the following agreements had been concluded between the "ROK" and the U. S.: the "Agreement on the 'ROK'-U. S. Economic Co-operation Administration" (1949), the "Agreement concerning Economic Coordination between the 'ROK' and the U. S. Joint Command" (1952), the "Agreement of the 'ROK'-U. S. Joint Economic Commission concerning Plans of Economic Rehabilitation and Financial Stabilization" (1954) and the "Minutes of the Proceedings agreed on between the 'ROK' and the U. S. concerning Military and Economic Cooperation" (1954).

The "'ROK'-U. S. Economic and Technical Agreement" was concluded as a finishing touch to previous four agreements by streamlining them on the ground of promoting the introduction and effective use of U. S. "aid."

The agreement will go into effect on the day when the instruments of ratification by the South Korean "National Assembly" are exchanged between the two at the American Embassy in Seoul.

The agreement consists of eight articles and minutes of the proceedings agreed upon by both sides. Main points stipulated in the agreement are as follows:

Under the agreement, the South Korean puppet government is not in a position to decide on the exchange rates of the huan to the dollar for "aid" goods.

The agreement obligates the puppet government to provide all the necessary materials and data to the U. S. government for the "effective use of U. S. aid" to South Korea.

Further, the U. S. government is in a position to "supervise" the budget compilation of the South Korean puppet government in the name of "joint research."

In addition, the agreement provides that those personnel engaged in the "aid" work shall be granted diplomatic privileges such as tax exemption.

S. Korean People Denounce Raising Of Exchange Rate

Various sections of the South Korean people are strongly denouncing the exchange rate revision effective from Feb. 2.

Seoul Il-il Shinmun charged that it is not the "ROK" but the U. S. that profits from a raise in the exchange rate, according to a foreign correspondent's cable from Seoul.

The paper exposed the deceptive nature of the Feb. 2 statement by U. S. Ambassador Walter P. McConaughy that the raising of the exchange rate was an encouraging and constructive measure for the development of the South Korean economy. The paper also said that McConaughy was acting like a "governor-general" in South Korea.

Meanwhile, Minkuk Ilbo, a leading South Korean newspaper, pointed out that the exchange rate revision would enable the U. S. to strengthen its grip on the South Korean budget. It added that the rate raise would prevent the "ROK" from mapping out an independent economic policy.

Pointing out that the subjection of the huan to the dollar increased dependence of the South Korean economy upon the U. S., Hankuk Ilbo urged that the U. S. should not impose its opinions on Koreans.

The exchange rate revision, the "Socialist Popular Party" said, has caused higher prices to aggravate the living of the people. The party called upon various circles to form a "joint front" to attack U. S. imperialism for its imperialist actions.

Socialist Popular Party Denounces Economic Accord With U. S.

The South Korean "Socialist Popular Party" issued a statement on Feb. 8 denouncing the "'ROK'-U.S. Economic and Technical Agreement as aimed at further interfering in the budget compilation of the puppet government and at turning South Korea into a U.S. colony, according to a report from Seoul. In the statement, the party requested immediate resignation of the Chang Myun regime.

Tory Party Leader Opposes Accord

The "'ROK'-U.S. Economic and Technical Agreement" is opposed even by the ruling party leaders, according to a Feb. 8 report from Seoul.

Li Suk Ki, Democratic floor leader said on Feb. 8 that he was not satisfied with this agreement.

Seoul Students Rally Against Accord

About 500 Seoul students held a rally on Feb. 14 against the "'ROK'-U. S. Economic and Technical Agreement" and demanded the South Korean National Assembly do not ratify the agreement, according to reports from Seoul.

The rally was held after opposition parties attacked the government in the National Assembly branding the agreement as a "humiliating one" enabling the U. S. to interfere in the internal affairs of South Korea.

Minju Chosun Denounces Exchange Rate Revision and Accord

Strongly denouncing both the upward revision of the exchange rate and the "'ROK'-U. S. Economic and Technical Agreement," Minju Chosun, organ of the Government of the DPRK, carried articles titled "Raising of the exchange rate exposes the gangster-like nature of U. S. imperialism" and "We resolutely denouce a new treacherous agreement imposed upon South Korea by the U. S. imperialists" on Feb. 3 and 10 respectively, according to Radio Pyonyang.

"New People's Party" Against Ratification Of Accord

A round-table conference of ins and outs scheduled for Feb. 10 at the Hotel "Bando" did not come off as the New People's Party refused to take part in the conference in connection with the question of ratifying the "'ROK'-U. S. Economic and Technical Agreement," according to reports of Feb. 10 from Seoul.

The party takes a stand against ratification of the agreement on the grounds that it involves so many provisions infringing upon sovereignty of the "ROK." This is why the party refused to participate in the above-mentioned conference.

WITHDRAWAL OF U. S. TROOPS FROM S. KOREA IS INDISPENSABLE FOR KOREA'S REUNIFICATION

Today, South-North interchange and peaceful unification of Korea have become a unanimous and unshakable demand of all the Korean people both home and abroad. Especially, encouraged immensely by the brilliant development of socialist construction in the northern part of the Republic, the struggle of South Korean people for the reunification of their fatherland is growing in strength day after day. In order to solve the Korean question peacefully by Korean people themselves, the earliest possible withdrawal of U. S. troops from South Korea is indispensable.

National Front Attacks Kennedy Government

The "National Front for Unification of the Fatherland" in South Korea issued a statement on Feb. 9 attacking the Kennedy regime for trying to obstruct unification of Korea just as Eisenhower did, reports Tongyang Tongshin from Seoul.

Reports from Washington say that the Kennedy administration is intending to stick to the bankrupt slogan demanding "proportional representation and U. N. supervision in South-North general elections." U. S. Government leaders officially said that "U. N. forces should stay in South Korea until a unified independent democratic Korea is born."

Referring to this attitude of the U. S. Government toward the unification issue, the statement said, "This is nothing but reaffirmation of the impracticable and aggressive principle of holding 'general elections under U. N. supervision!" The statement stressed that the Korean people should play a fundamental and important part in achieving the unification of Korea without U. S. interference.

The National Front charged that the Kennedy regime, advocating continued U.S. occupation of South Korea, was trying to postpone unification of Korea indefinitely.

Council Of National Unification Published Declaration

The "Preparatory Committee for Central Council of Independent National Unification" made public on Jan. 15 its declaration, program and a tentative list of preparatory committee men, according to the Minkuk-ilbo of Jan. 18.

The declaration stressed that the division of the land and people of Korea is the greatest reason why the South Korean people have been suffering from poverty and suppression for 16 years since the Aug. 15 Liberation.

The declaration pointed out, "If we fail to achieve the unification of our fatherland, which is the sublime order and strongest desire of our nation, we will suffer greater difficulties and national disgrace and humiliation.

Referring to the present division of the fatherland, the declaration continued:

"Our fatherland is one and we are one nation. Nevertheless, many compatriots are worried about their fathers, mothers, wives or children, with whom they cannot exchange letters, and the enterprises in South Korea are daily declining, because there is no exchange of goods between North and South.

The declaration stressed:

"At a time when the line of peaceful solution has become a major trend in the world and when minor nations are achieving independece one after another, it is really a matter for regret that our nation, with a long history of rich culture, is still unable to act in the international arena as a unified independent country.

"Many of our patriotic forefathers sacrificed their lives for complete independence of our fatherland, development of democracy and for national prosperity. Many comrades also died for the same cause in the April people's uprising of last year. We should follow in their steps and endeavor to achieve unification as soon as possible.

"We should make efforts to solve this problem by ourselves, instead of depending on foreign powers.

"We cannot rely on the irresolute government. It is necessary for us to use every possible means for this purpose. We should also keep a close watch on the government in pushing our national movement."

The following are the aims of the organization, which were made public the same day:

1. Independent and peaceful national unification of Korea.

2. Full mobilization of the people's energies for independent national unification.

3. Development of friendly international relations on the basis of national independence.

Vietnamese Fatherland Front Supports Korean People For Unification

The Central Committee of the Vietnamese Fatherland Front recently issued a statement expressing wholehearted support of the Vietnamese people for the Korean people's struggle for peaceful unification of the fatherland, reported Vietnam News of Feb. 2 from Hanoi. In the statement, the committee welcomed the Jan. 18 statement of the Fatherland Front of the DPRK, which stressed that South-North economic and cultural interchange and exchange of letters should be realized for the peaceful unification of Korea.

Supporting the principle of peaceful unification proposed by Premier Kim Il Sung, the statement stressed that peaceful unification of Korea should be achieved by the Korean people themselves without any foreign interference.

DPRK Transportation Minister Proposed To Connect Split Artery

The Transportation Minister of the DPRK said that the split artery of our country should be connected again as soon as possible for achieving South-North economic and cultural interchange.

Writing in Minju Chosun of Jan. 29, Transportation Minister Kim Hoe Il said in part:

"In order to save South Korea from the present crisis and the South Korean people from their extremely miserable living condition, South-North economic and cultural interchange and peaceful unification should be achieved. Transportation plays a most important part in accomplishing this purpose.

Referring to the present transportation situation of South Korea, he said:

"Today, transportation facilities in South Korea are miserably destroyed, serving only the U. S. imperialists as their tool for aggression.

"The number of steam locomotive engines in South Korea is only 25 per cent of that in 1949. Passenger and freight cars decreased by no less than 1,660, almost all of which are superannuated.

"Many persons are killed or injured daily by traffic accidents. However, instead of taking an effective measure to solve this serious situation, the South Korean authorities are using these traffic facilities only for transporting U. S.-made munition and "surplus" goods.

"In order to rapidly restore and develop the destroyed facilities in South Korea, they should depend on the powerful heavy industry and developed traffic facilities of the northern part of the Republic."

Referring to concrete measures to accomplish South-North economic and cultural interchange and cooperation, he continued:

"We are ready to start a through passenger train service between Shiniju and Pusan, between Wonsan and Seoul, and a through freight car service between Pyongyang and Pusan, between Wonsan and Pusan, with our own locomotive engines, passenger and freight cars."

He added, "We can repair the destroyed transportation facilities in South Korea as well as produce and supply fittings and vehicles. We can also build a modern works in Inchun with a capacity of producing 3,000 cars annually and equip the Ryongsan Railway Works in South Korea with modern techniques and facilities.

"We will also completely rebuild with our materials the destroyed railway buildings in South Korea and supply machines necessary for mechanizing loading and unloading.

"We are prepared to restore port facilities in South Korea as well as destroyed roads and bridges. In order to solve housing shortage among South Korean transportation workers, we will build modern apartments for them in Seoul and various other districts of South Korea.

"These proposals are based on resolutions by transportation workers in the northern part of the Republic. If these proposals are accepted, transportation facilities in South Korea will serve as an artery of our country and contribute toward improving the South Korean economy and people's living, with the result that peaceful unification of the fatherland will be further promoted.

"Workers engaged in transportation in South and North! Let's discuss concrete plans to achieve all our proposals."

N.-S. Sports Exchange Proposed, Too

Kim Duck Jun, vice-chairman of Athletic Guidance Committee, attached to the Cabinet of the DPRK, stressed that "South-North interchange of sports should be realized without delay," according to a Pyongyang broadcast.

Writing in Minju Chosun of Jan. 31, Kim said in part:

"The present division of our fatherland is a serious obstacle in the way of developing our physical training, not to say of its being a barrier against political, economic and cultural development of the country.

"Sportsmen in both South and North Korea have been unable to gather in the same stadium for 16 years. Nor can they exchange sports news with each other. This unbearable situation is caused by none but the U.S. imperialists and their puppets, who are bent on hatching plots to perpetuate the division of our country.

"Sports in South Korea serve as a tool to maintain colonial and reactionary rule and to please only the privileged classes.

"On the contrary, sports in the northern part of the Republic, thanks to the popular sports policy of the Korean Workers' Party and the Government, are contributing toward improving workers' welfare, health and their cultural life."

"Every year our sportsmen hold goodwill sports events with those of other Socialist countries including the Soviet Union and China, and also with sportsmen of capitalist nations such as France, Iraq, Ceylon and so forth.

"Our sportsmen are display ing the glory and mettle of the Korean people, exhibiting their excellent technique in the world.

"Interchange of sports with any other countries contributes toward increasing mutual trust, goodwill and toward enriching their experience concerned.

"Today, mutual contact and economic and cultural interchange are welcomed even among nations with different social systems, languages, customs or skins. There is no reason why the same Korean people cannot meet each other.

"All sportsmen in South and North should endeavor to shatter the barrier preventing integral development of our sports and to accomplish South-North sports exchange.

"If sportsmen in South Korea want to visit here, we are ready to welcome them even now. We are also well prepared to offer every convenience to them such as their expenses as well as facilities necessary for games or trainings.

"Sportsmen in the North wish to train themselves and improve their technique in South Korea, making use of its favorable natural and weather conditions.

"We urge sportsmen in North and South to form a single team and participate in world's various championship events or international athletic festivals.

"We want to send a single team representing both South and North Korea to the 26th World Table Tennis Championship Match to be held in Peking this April.

"And we propose to send single teams to the Students' International Summer Athletic Festival scheduled in Sofia this summer, the World Weight-lifting Championship Match in Vienna this autumn, and to the 18th Tokyo Olympic Games in 1964.

"The time is ripe for realizing South-North sports interchange. If sportsmen in both South and North gather in one place to discuss frankly common problems, there will be no problems that they cannot solve.

"Sportsmen in South and North! Let's realize sports interchange and develop the physical training culture of our country for the sake of our great task — peaceful unification of our fatherland.

Joint Conference Of Political Parties And Social Bodies Condemns "'ROK'-U. S. Economic Accord"

Joint Conference of Political Parties and Social Organizations on Feb. 16 issued a joint statement branding the recently concluded "'ROK'-U. S. Economic and Technical Agreement" as "an unequal, humiliating document."

The joint statement was issued at a meeting held, at the Moranbong Theater, of the Korean Workers' Party, the North Korean Democratic Party, the Democratic Independence Party, the Korean Democratic Women's Union, the Korean Democratic Youth Union, and other political parties and mass organizations.

The statement warned that, under this unequal agreement concluded between the South Korean puppet regime and the United States on Feb. 8, the United States is in a position to exercise fully the right to control and supervise all the political, economic and military affairs of South Korea, including the compilation of the budget. The agreement unilaterally forces obligations on the South Korean authorities, it added.

According to the agreement, the statement continued, the South Korean authorities are forced to conduct their activities according to the acts and regulations of the United States and to furnish all available information on their activities, which, in turn, are placed under the control of the United States.

Further, the statement pointed out that the South Korean authorities are obligated to supply the United States with all personnel and material resources the U. S. imperialists require in achieving their purposes.

It also pointed out that under the agreement not only the so-called "special missions and their component members" but also contractors with the U. S. Government and the employes of the U.S. government and its agencies and their families enjoy the same privileges as foreign diplomats: They are exempted from taxation and assured of the "wholehearted cooperation" of the South Korean authorities.

The statement declared, "We, taking part in the Joint Conference of Political Parties and Social Organizations, sharply condemn and denounce this traitorous act by the Chang Myun clique, which follows in the steps of the unforgivable national traitors, Li Wan Yong and Rhee Syngman.

"We solemnly declare in the name of all the Korean people that we will never recognize any "treaties" and "agreements" imposed on the South Korean people by the U. S. imperialists, as we have never recognized such documents in the past."

General Association Denounces Belgium And Dag On Lumumba Assassination

The Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chairman, Han Duck Su) sent on Feb. 17 to the Belgian Government a cable denouncing Belgian colonialists and the Congolese traitors, Mobutu and Tshombe, for slaying the Premier of the legitimate government of the Congo under the direction of the U. S. imperialists.

The Association also sent to U. N. Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold a protest cable holding him responsible for the assassination.

Chairman Han Duck Su On Temporary Suspension Of Repat.

The Chairman of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan told pressmen on Feb. 9 that the temporary suspension of the scheduled sailings of the repatriation ships had been caused by the vicious influenza prevailing all over Japan.

Chairman Han Duck Su said:

"In Tokyo alone, 907 primary, middle and high schools closed classes entirely or partially between the biginning of this year and Feb. 7, according to Japanese newspapers. The epidemic has claimed 15 deaths including a 30-year-old woman. The Metropolitan Government's Health Bureau says that 40 per cent of the Tokyoites are suffering from the epidemic.

"Considering this situation, the DPRK Red Cross told its Japanese counterpart that it intended to suspend repatriation work until the prevailing influenza subsided, lest the epidemic should spread to our country. In reply, the Japan Red Cross on Feb. 4 asked the DPRK Red Cross to continue sending ships as the disease was not so rampant.

"But our Red Cross on Feb. 8 reaffirmed its original intention to suspend sending ships. Naturally, the DPRK Red Cross took this action to protect the Korean people against the vicious epidemic.

"On the day the Japan Red Cross sent the above-mentioned cable, the Tokyo Epidemic Prevention Committee decided to strengthen precautionary measures against the "raging influenza."

"If our Red Cross continues sending ships as scheduled according to the wishes of the Japanese side, in spite of this situation, the epidemic will hit our country, causing serious damage to the Korean people, who have not experienced influenza in the recent years. The Japanese authorities are only asking for ships, instead of taking adequate precautionary measures. This is in spite of the fact that the influenza has been prevalent all over Japan for some months.

"We ask the Japanese authorities to suspend repatriation work in response to the cable of the DPRK Red Cross until the influenza calms down and to extend relief to the repatriates awaiting return to their homeland.

Editorial

We Accuse U. S. Imperialism For Its Arbitrary Actions

Speaking of the word "puppet," it is necessary to discern various nuances of its meaning. As to the South Korean "puppet" regime, it is rather proper to regard it as one of American states than as an American puppet government.

The U. S. imperialists forced the South Korean authorities to raise the exchange rate on Feb. 1 to 1,300 huan to one dollar. Referring to the exchange rate revision, a high official of the U. S. State Department said on Feb. 2 to the effect that the raising of the exchange rate was aimed at enabling the U. S. to obtain more "huan" for a dollar or at reducing spending in South Korea by the U. S. Department of Defence. This announcement suffices to lay bare the plundering nature of the recent exchange rate revision.

In addition, the United States pressured the Chang Myun regime to sign on Feb. 8 the humiliating "'ROK'-U. S. Economic and Technical Agreement." The agreement helps the U. S. imperialists strengthen their control over the South Korean economy and the national budget on the pretext of an effective use of U. S. "aid." Uuder the agreement, the South Korean puppet government is obligated to offer all necessary data and information concerning the South Korean economy. Moreover, the agreement provides that extraterritorial tax exemption privileges shall be accorded to U. S. personnel engaged in "aid" work and their family members, to say nothing of U.S. governmental officials in South Korea.

We pay utmost attention to a new plot being hatched by the U. S. imperialists to perpetuate the division of our country. Alarmed by the powerful movements of South Korean people for peaceful unification of the country, the U. S. authorities are recently noisily demanding "UN-supervised general elections under a proportional representation system" and "continued stationing of UN forces in South Korea."

It is clear that things are taking a turn favoring not U.S. imperialism and its puppets but the Korean people struggling for South-North interchange and peaceful unification.

Attacking the "Economic and Technical Agreement," the South Korean "Socialist Popular Party" demanded, on Feb. 8, that the Chang Myun regime resign en bloc immediately so as to assume the responsibility for its misrule. Voices for immediate resignation of the Chang Myun regime are rising all over South Korea.

The more recklessly U. S. imperialism and its puppets carry out their policies of splitting the country and of intensifying exploitation, the fiercer becomes the people's struggle. This is the main feature characterizing today's South Korean situation. The U. S. government should learn a lesson from history and must immediately evacuate its armed forces from South Korea. All the traitorous agreements and treaties must also be abolished. We will further strengthen our struggle against U. S. imperialism and the Chang Myun puppet clique, with the support of the peace loving peoples of the world, including the Japanese people.

Koreans In Japan Getting Ready For Resumption Of Repat. Work

Korean casual laborers in Nagoya City resolved to return home, putting an end to a bitter life in Japan.

Repatriation ships are suspending their sailings to the DPRK due to the recent spread of influenza all over Japan. In connection with this, some Japanese newspapers and South Korean reactionaries are spreading a groundless rumor that the suspension of the departures of repatriation ships was caused by a decreasing in the number of repatriates to the DPRK.

But, actually, tens of thousands of Korean citizens in Japan are eagerly waiting for early resumption of the repatriation work. As the spring season is drawing near, the number of applicants for repatriation is increasing rapidly.

For example, 40 Korean citizens living in Tanabe village, Wakayama prefecture, have recently applied for repatriation. Further, 70 more in this village also applied for repatriation.

In Osaka, nearly 180 households comprising 800 persons, engaged in the sewing machine manufacturing, shoemaking, vinyl processing, lenz manufacturing industries or in tailoring, applied for repatriation, making their production facilities and equipment commonly-owned property. They are now busy preparing for repatriation, determined to take part in Socialist construction in their fatherland after repatriation.

Meanwhile, many Korean students in Japan are also applying for repatriation to their fatherland where they can receive education free of charge. About 150 students of the Tokyo Korean Junior and Senior High School applied for repatriation, hoping to arrive in their fatherland by the start of new school year term in April. Excepting three, a whole class of 43, in the Aichi Korean Junior and Senior High School, also applied for repatriation collectively in order to receive free education in their fatherland.

Such being the case, there is no doubt that tens of thousands of Korean citizens in Japan will continue to go home once the influenza now in prevalence in Japan subsides.

54th Batch Of Repatriates Start New Life In Home Country

After taking a fortnight's rest at Chungjin reception houses, the 54th batch of repatriates from Japan left Chungjin on Feb. 11 to start a new life at factories, agricultural cooperatives and other enterprises in various districts of the Republic.

The Korean Workers' Party and the people's regime have assured jobs for these repatriates according to their wishes and ability and their children have been sent to schools of all levels to receive education free of charge.

Countrymen At Repat. Center Receive Relief Fund

The General Association of the Korean residents in Japan decided on Feb. 10 to grant relief money to about 750 Koreans awaiting return home at the repatriation center at Niigata Port, from which the repatriation ships depart. They will receive 100 yen per head per day as from Feb. 11.

The Koreans are now staying at the repatriation center in the city, awaiting repatriation aboard the 55th and 56th repatriation ships, whose departure has been temporarily suspended due to the prevalence of influenza in Japan.

The action was taken as a measure to prevent influenza from spreading to the northern part of Korea.

The Koreans, stranded temporarily at the repatriation center, had been facing difficulties of living because of the unexpectedly long stay at the repatriation center.

S. Korea Under U. S. Occupation

Chungju Fertilizer Factory –Model Case Of U.S. "Aid"

The apologists of colonialism boastfully declare that the United States has acted as "guardians of peace and democracy" in South Korea in the past 16 years since the termination of World War II. But is this true?

That such a statement is a complete lie, will be clear from the fact that the South Korean people rose at the risk of their lives, demanding a new government, new life and a new system, and toppled the autocratic, despotic government of Rhee Syngman and dealt a fatal blow to the fascistic and terroristic machinery of domination.

In the following, we will see what thousands of millions of dollars poured by the United States into South Korea in "military, economic and technical aid" brought about in South Korea.

We will take, as an example, the Chungju Fertilizer Factory, which was publicized as "a shining example of U.S. technical aid" to South Korea.

A shack in one of the slum quarters in Seoul City.

Contract Revised Five Times

On May 13, 1955, the representative of Mcloy Hydrocarbon Co., came from the United States, and Kang Sung Tai, Secretary of the Industry and Commerce Department of the South Korean puppet Government, signed a contract concerning the construction of a fertilizer factory in Chungju.

According to the contract, the fertilizer factory was to be constructed in three years, or by June 30 of 1958 and the production capacity of 250 tons of fertilizer was to be guaranteed during 10 days of test operation after the completion of the factory.

The contract stipulated that a sum of $ 19,555,000 was to be provided from the ICA fund and a sum of 1,500 million huan (or approximately $ 3 million) was to be borne by the South Korean authorities. In addition, an amount of $ 453,000 was to be paid as royalties to the U. S. side.

But it was after many twists and turns that the U. S. Mcloy Hydrocarbon Co. finally decided to engage in the construction of the plant. The U. S. side opposed to inviting tenders from countries other than the United States for the construction of the factory. Only American construction companies were invited to hand in tenders at a bidding held in Washington.

Further, the U. S. Government, refusing to accept the lowest tender for the construction work, strongly recommended Mcloy Hydrocarbon as the most suitable company to the South Korean Government, which finally yielded to urgings by the U. S. Government.

The American company did not intend to complete the construction work according to the original contract. The Rhee regime was forced by the U.S. authorities to revise the contract five times until the final contract was concluded. (This was possible because there was no clause stipulating that the construction company was to assume the responsibility for the failure to construct the factory by the specified date.)

As a result, the total construction expenses were increased by $ 16,301,166 to $ 39, 309,166. Originally, the plant was to be completed at a cost of $ 23,008,000.

After the collapse of the Rhee regime, South Korean people began demanding a probe into the construction of the Chungju Fertilizer Factory.

The Chang Myun "Government," which supplanted the Rhee regime after the popular uprising of last year, was forced to set up in the National Assembly a special committee for the investigation into the Chungju Fertilizer Factory case.

According to the final or fifth revised contract, agreed upon on May 27 of 1960, the factory was to be completed by Dec. 4 of 1960.

On the other hand, the investigation committee started a probe into the fertilizer factory case. The interim report of the committee clarified the fact that Rhee Syngman, in collusion with the United States, concluded the contract with an inferior American company at a cost far higher than the international level and that the contract was of a unilateral nature.

This meant that though the construction required five years for completion in spite of the fact that the contract stipulated that it should be finished in three years, the South Korean side had no right to claim damages.

As a result, the investigation committee decided that Kang Sung Tai be charged with misfeasance in office and that a strong protest be lodged with the U. S. Government, according to a KP dispatch datelined Seoul Oct. 17, 1960.

Finally, the construction was completed and the factory started test operation on Nov. 10 of last year. But test operation on the first day was a complete failure, as the factory did not attain the target. Tests were repeated several times later, and at present it is barely continuing production.

American soldiers and a shoe-shine boy! U. S. "aid" can bring about nothing other than misery and misfortune for S. Korean people.

U. S. Interferes In Factory Management

This is not the end of the story, however. Now the South Korean public is watching with keen interest wranglings and bickerings between the South Korean authorities and the U. S. side (ICA authorities and Mcloy Hydrocarbon) over the operation and management of the factory.

Mcloy Hydrocarbon, in collusion with ICA authorities, is trying to interfere with the management and operation of the company. The U. S. company officials argue that Koreans are incapable of managing the plant and that their technical level is not sufficient to operate it.

They also say that the South Korean government is not paying sufficient attention to the plant so that some American company should be entrusted with its operation and management.

The Chang Myun "Government" is not taking a clear-cut attitude toward this question. According to a Feb. 8 dispatch from Seoul, the puppet government is proposing the establishment of a five-men committee to settle this question.

The committee is to consist of a representative each from the Industry and Commerce Department, the Reconstruction Department, the present managing company of the plant, Mcloy Hydrocarbon and ICA authorities.

Korean technicians and engineers at the factory, refusing to accept the Mcloy Hydrocarbon's arguments as "absurd," are demanding that American engineers immediately quit the factory to leave its management and operation to Koreans. They point out the fact that a fertilizer factory of the same scale as the Chungju Factory was constructed in Pakistan and is being operated by Pakistani themselves.

Special Probe Committee Submits Recommendations To Gov't

On Feb. 7, the Special Investigation Committee of the National Assembly made the following recommendations to the Chang Myun regime concerning the management and operation of the factory, according to the Feb. 8 issue of Tonga Ilbo.

1. That the South Korean authorities should demand damages amounting to $15,260,000, caused by the higher cost of construction, as well as damages amounting to $ 13 million caused by the delay in the construction work.

2. That the "Government" should cancel the contracts already concluded with Mcloy Hydrocarbon concerning service and the technical training of Korean technicians. Such services and training should be sought from any country willing to help South Korean engineers.

3. That the present company managing the Chungju Fertilizer Factory is based upon weak legal grounds. This company should be dissolved developmentally in favor of a new organ to assure fairness in the future sale of the plant to a private company.

The November issue of the magazine "Sasanggae" (Ideological World), commenting upon the construction of the fertilizer factory, said, "The contract was revised five times after the start of the construction and the cost was doubled as compared with the original estimate. The Chungju Fertilizer Factory is a model case of a contract concluded as a result of political underhand dealings as well as of aid funds wasted."

In other words, the United States is intending to strengthen control over South Korean industries through "technical assistance." Toward this end, the United States has only (1) to force on South Korea antiquated equipment and facilities which would be worthless in any industrially advanced countries and (2) to have American engineers directly control the management of such factory.

The Chungju Fertilizer Factory is an eloquent demonstration of this fact.

Wasting $ 39,309,166 and five years.....

—Che Jun

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